

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XXII

ASHLAND, O., THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1900.

No. 32

MY MOTHER'S GRAVE

This poem is from "Songs in the Night," a collection of original poems, by B. C. Moomaw, published for him and for sale by the Brethren Publication Board, Ashland, Ohio. The book contains, in addition to the poems, a number of beautiful hymns, by the author, among them one on Trine Immersion.

I stood beside the lowly mound
Where we had laid in hallowed ground
The sacred form of one whose love
Bore semblance to the world above,
So pure, so beautiful, so free.
And such a friend she was to me,
As might an angel be to one?
As can a mother be, alone.
Her spirit has returned to God.
Bright flowers I laid upon that sod;
So shall her mem'ry ever be
Fragrant and beautiful, to me.

Far in the past my spirit roved
Amid the scenes I early loved,
Where childhood's flowery fancy flows,
And youth and early manhood rose;
Before the world's relentless strife
Had dimmed the radiant morn of life.
In all that past a mother's part
Revealed the truest, tenderest heart.
While thus I mused a heavenly ray
Gleamed softly on the mound of clay;
So shall her mem'ry ever be
A lamp of holy light, to me.

A mother's heart! Oh who can tell
The wealth which in its depths may dwell.
A refuge, and a world of love,
None but a mother's heart may prove;
None but a mother's life may be
So full of life and charity;
An angel to her child, whose wing
Defends it from the serpent's sting.
A wondrous song my spirit heard,
And all my soul was strangely stirred;
So shall her mem'ry be
A melody of love, to me.

Thru all her years her gentle hand
E'er led us to the better land;
And all her love one burden bore,
Or lavished all its golden store,
To serve her God with holy life,
And patience in the world's rude strife,
And tireless ministry of good
To all who in her vision stood.
It was a light divinely given.
Forever fled to shine in heaven.
So shall her mem'ry ever be
A bright and beckoning star, to me.